Further heavy rain brings new risk of flooding

6 July 2012 - Heavy rain and the risk of flooding are set to continue - with persistent and heavy rain particularly affecting the South West this weekend.

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The Met Office has issued a Red Severe Weather Warning for heavy rain for parts of south-west Devon and east Cornwall, and the public are advised to keep up to date on our website and with forecasts on TV and radio during this unsettled spell.

A low pressure system which has moved in from the west is set to be positioned over or close to the UK until early next week, bringing in a series of rain-bearing weather fronts and generating thundery showers at times.

Frank Saunders, Chief Forecaster at the Met Office, said: "Although not all places will see the heaviest of the rain, where it does fall it is likely to lead to surface water flooding and disruption to travel. The southwest of England looks the most likely area to see heaviest rainfall through Friday night and into Saturday with the greatest impacts.

Rainfall totals could be 20-40 mm widely across warning areas, but some places could see around 80 mm of rain into Saturday.

Frank Saunders continued: "The Met Office will be working with partners and emergency responders throughout this period to keep everyone up to date with the latest developments. The public are advised to be prepared and take action to protect themselves and property from the impacts of this severe weather whilst following the advice of the emergency services."

Craig Woolhouse, Environment Agency Head of Flood Incident Management, said: "We would urge people to remain on alert for flooding, especially in Devon, Cornwall and Somerset. It has been raining heavily today, and the situation could escalate quite quickly.

"We would encourage everyone to keep up to date with the latest information and flood warnings by checking the Environment Agency website and Twitter feed. When flood warnings are issued, residents in those areas should think about moving valuable possessions to safety. Our Floodline service on 0845 9881188 can also provide advice.

"We would also ask people to remember to stay away from flood water, and do not walk or drive through it, as it is often fast moving and can contain sewage and other debris."

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